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News Release

California Arts Council and the Consulate General of Peru to sponsor art exhibition of paintings by Florentino Laime Mantilla, with reception for the artist on April 14, 1998

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SACRAMENTO: The **California Arts Council** and the **Consulate General of Peru in San Francisco**, in conjunction with **LaSalle Partners** and the **Side Bar Cafe**, are pleased to announce an exhibition of paintings by **Florentino Laime Mantilla**. A reception honoring the artist will be held on April 14, 1998 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Side Bar Cafe, on the first floor of the building of the Office of the Attorney General located at 1300 I Street, Sacramento. The public is invited to attend and light refreshments will be served. The exhibit will be on view April 7 through April 21, 1998, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Florentino Laime Mantilla was born 1960 in the Quechua community of Huacuyo in the district of Santo Tomas in the Andean mountains of Peru. As a child, Laime would make paints from the pigments of flowers to color his drawings. When Laime graduated from high school he enrolled in art school in Cuzco and used commercially made paints and brushes for the first time. In art school, he encountered great resistance from his instructors over his interest in painting scenes of his Quechua community and his use of vibrant colors. This struggle over style and use of color was not solely a conflict of aesthetics; this conflict was rooted in the lingering hold of colonization as it continued to value Western European standards of art and beauty over that of indigenous expressions of art and beauty.

Laime's exhibition speaks eloquently of the unified strength of the Quechua people to steadfastly protect and defiantly follow indigenous ideologies in the face of hegemonic forces. The power of this exhibition lies in Laime's ability to share Quechua life and knowledge through his selection of brilliant colors and choice of subject.

Today, Laime is a visiting artist-in-residence with the Indigenous Research Center of the Americas in the Department of Native American Studies at the University of California at Davis. The exhibition at UC Davis is sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellowship, the Indigenous Research Center of the Americas, the Department of Native American Studies, and the **California Arts Council's Multicultural Entry Grant Program**.

The California Arts Council, a state agency established in 1976, promotes artistic awareness and participation in California. The California Arts Council's mission is to promote the arts and serve the people of California. The Arts Council provides technical assistance and grants to artists and nonprofit organizations. Applications are reviewed and rated at public meetings by outside professional peer panels and receive final approval from the appointed 11-member Council. Arts Council members include: James L. Loper, Ph.D., Chair; Dea Spanos Berberian; Edward C. Cazier, Jr.; Iris R. Dart; Doris Fisher; Barbara George; Thomas Hall; Hugh Hewitt; Janet Karatz; David C. Lizarraga; and A.C. Lyles.

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